

and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

B Please attach to the specification the two pages entitled "Sequence Listing" appended hereto which contain the sequence listings referred to in the specification.

In the specification at page 4, please delete the paragraph appearing at lines 26-28 and substitute therefor the following paragraph:

B² As described in the above publications mRNA instability sequences often contain one or more copies of sequence motifs, e.g. selected from: AUUUA (SEQ ID NO:1); UAUUUUAU (SEQ ID NO:2); UUAUUUA(U/A)(U/A) (SEQ ID NO:3), and AUUUAUUUA (SEQ ID NO:4).

In the specification at page 5, please delete the paragraph appearing at lines 18-23 and substitute therefor the following paragraph:

B3
Thus by way of illustration of the invention a preferred mRNA instability sequence for use in the identification of compounds which destabilise IL-1 β mRNA is derived from the 3' UTR of IL-1 β mRNA, e.g. the sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:5). More preferably the IL-1 β mRNA instability sequence may comprise a fragment of the 3' UTR of IL-1 β mRNA. For example, a particularly preferred IL-1 β mRNA instability sequence comprises the 30 nucleotide sequence derived from the 3' UTR of IL-1 β mRNA (shown in Figure 2) (SEQ ID NO:6 and SEQ ID NO:7).

In the Claims:

In the claims, please amend claims 1-8 and 11-14 as follows:

B4
Please substitute the following claim 1 for the currently pending claim 1:

1. (Once amended) A method for the identification of a compound which affects mRNA stability, comprising:

- Sub C1
- (a) contacting a test compound with a DNA expression system which, in the absence of the test compound, is capable of expressing a protein having a detectable signal, wherein mRNA which codes for the protein and which is transcribed from the expression system comprises at least one copy of a mRNA instability sequence;